

VIA AIR ROUTE

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : U.S. MISSION BERLIN
 TO : The Department of State, Washington
 RIF :

DESP. NO. 486

November 15, 1956

4016452

SUBJECT: EXCON: Probable Shipment of Geiger Tubes to West Berlin Trader

The Mission was reliably informed of confirmation of an order for 20 Geiger tubes (five 5718, five 5842, ten 6 by 4) from NAUTUS S.A., 32 Boulevard des Tranchées, Geneva, Switzerland, by the firm C. Grandia, Hohenzollerndamm 2, West Berlin. No price was indicated. The shipment was to have been addressed:

C. Grandia-Export, Berlin
 c/o Kühne & Nagel, Berlin Tempelhof, Flughafen
 Notify Christiansen Deutrans.

(Deutrans is an East Berlin forwarding firm). The confirmation of this order, dated October 16, did not indicate the shipment date. It did state that a comprehensive offer of tubes under "Pos. B 433" (not further identified) would be made in a few days.

Local licensing officials state that an import license for this product would not be required unless the exporter's government requested some type of verification, but that an export license would be necessary for its shipment to the East. There is no record of any application for an import (or export) license, nor is information available locally as to Swiss requirements concerning exports of international atomic energy list items.

Customs officials agreed to check their records to determine whether such a shipment had been entered. It was determined that a shipment by mail of ten tubes was received by C. Grandia (but not handled by Deutrans) on October 11. They were invoiced and declared as "amplifying tubes, not for lighting" and, according to the report, examined by the customs inspector who was satisfied with the declaration. For customs purposes, this was a proper identification, as there is no separate category for "Geiger tubes". This consignment was sent by air from Halpin (or Walpin?) in Brussels. There was no mention of NAUTUS. An interesting aspect of this transaction was that customs entry was, at the consignee's request, for a period of six months. In such a case of temporary entry, no import license is required.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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 Reporter

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